



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of
**CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION**

THIS WEEK

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Female Inmates Graduate from Alcohol and Drug Counselor Program at VSPW

The first class of female lifer and other long-term inmates completing rigorous study to become certified alcohol and drug counselors graduated Jan. 7 in a ceremony at Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW) attended by family and community members.

Graduates from the Offender Mentor Certification Program (OMCP) who attain certification will provide substance-abuse counseling services for women incarcerated in California.

"These graduates are the pioneers of a new peer counselor program to bring the message of recovery to women in California's prisons," said Matthew Cate, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). "These women will strengthen our rehabilitation efforts and save taxpayers by utilizing the energy and skills of trained inmates to help each other."

"With this innovative concept in



A VSPW graduate is congratulated by a loved one after the ceremony.

correctional rehabilitation, we are giving these offenders a role that only they can fulfill – to share their experience of recovery with other women in order to help reduce victimization and recidivism," said Elizabeth Siggins, CDCR Chief Deputy Secretary for Adult Programs.

To qualify for the certification program, they first had to participate in the 90-day Trauma Informed Substance-Abuse Treatment Program (TI-SAT) – CDCR's gender-responsive substance abuse program directed to the meet the special

challenges and needs of women, administered by Walden House.

After completing TI-SAT, the mentors took 10 weeks of intense training and then finished 255 practicum hours, during which inmates worked side-by-side with professional counselors from Walden House in a group setting.

"This impressive achievement is a tribute to the motivation and hard work of these women and their instructors," said VSPW Warden Walter Miller. "Our institution is proud to be a part of this historic new program of utilizing mentors who have community credibility to help their fellow inmates begin a new life."

California launched its first program to train inmates as certified drug and alcohol counselors in 2005 at San Quentin State Prison. The program was expanded to California State Prison, Solano, in 2008. California is the first state in the nation to train inmates as certified alcohol and drug counselors to provide services for other inmates.

CALPIA Benefits State by \$497 Million -- According to University Study

California Prison Industry Authority's (CALPIA) 2008-09 Fiscal Year (FY) sales and in-state expenditures of \$282 million had a \$497 million multiplying benefit for the California economy, according to a December 2010 economic impact report.

Additionally, CALPIA's activities for the 2008-09 FY had a total California household income impact of \$132 million, and a total California employment impact of 2,394 jobs.

The report concludes that If CALPIA did not exist, total sales activity in California would have declined by \$295 million; state household income would have declined by \$75 million; and more than a thousand



California jobs would have been lost.

The primary economic benefit is from CALPIA's purchases of services and raw materials (intermediate inputs) from California retailers, who, in turn, add to their payrolls and make additional purchases from other businesses. Capital investments and CALPIA's civilian payroll add to the multiplication of benefits throughout California's economy.

CALPIA also provides savings to the State's General Fund through lower recidivism. Participants in CALPIA work

programs are 25 to 30 percent less likely to return to prison than the general prison population, resulting in ongoing savings of \$49,000 a year for each parolee who does not return to prison.

The Economic Impact of the California Prison Industry Authority on the California Economy for FY 2008-09 was produced by Thomas R. Harris, Director of the University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno, George Goldman, of the University of California, Berkeley, and Shannon Price.

See the full report here: http://pia.ca.gov/public_affairs/pdfs/CALPIA%20Economic%20Impact%20Study%202008-09.pdf

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